

Autism Partnership Board Meeting
11am-12:30pm 8th December 2020
Venue: Zoom

Attendees	Organisation/ Role
Valerie Fitch	Chair/ Person on the Autistic Spectrum
Debbie Hobbs	NAS Herefordshire
Mary Simpson	Healthwatch Herefordshire
John Gorman	Herefordshire Council
Paul Choppen	Herefordshire Council
Laura Ferguson	Herefordshire Council
Helen George	Herefordshire Council
James Baker	Person on the Autistic Spectrum / Hereford Make
Rob Gorle	ACSYL
Gill Gorle	ACSYL
Michelle Baillon	Parent Carer / Crossroads
Julie Walker	Herefordshire Council
Rachael Johnson	Clinical lead with Family Psychologist

Apologies	
Jenny Dalloway	Herefordshire and Worcester CCG
Sean Ladd	Star College
Alexa Heath	Herefordshire Council

Introductions, Apologies and Matters Arising

Valerie welcomed everyone and Paul listed off the apologies.

Training of staff on autism in Herefordshire Council and the Autism Offer for Social Workers-Ruth Goldwater Adult and Communities Workforce Development Lead.

Ruth discussed her shared role with Michelle Jones in creating annual training plans with heads of services for operational staff in assessment teams. This includes staff within the councils and registered services. Plans then go to Stephen Vickers (Director of Adult and Communities) to sign off.

Board members then asked Ruth questions about her job, the process of creating training plans and the issues that need to be considered when creating a training plan.

Some of the concerns board members had included:

- The need to make sure service user and their parent/carer are both involved in assessments. Making sure separate conversations are had with both the client and their parent/carer as the client may not be able to comprehend all of the ways being on the autistic spectrum affects them. Lack of social skills being given as an example.
- Staff need to regularly re-assess the needs of their clients,

- The importance of including real life stories and practical scenarios of issues people on the autistic spectrum face in day to day life.
- The importance that most of the training is physically based and not just online.
- Several members pointed out that it is now a legal duty for all health and social care staff undertaking regulated activities in England to have autism training.

Ruth mentioned that the best way in making sure assessment and enablement officers receive autism awareness training is to put a business case together to Stephen Vickers.

Valerie and Debbie both said they would be happy to help deliver training. Debbie said NAS had training material that could be used.

It was decided that members of the board would be given a week (up to December 15th) to send their views on what should be in the training and how it should be delivered to Paul. Paul would then collate member's views ready to be discussed in mid /January with Laura, Valerie and Ruth. A proposal around a business case would then be put forward at the next Autism Partnership Board meeting on February 9th.

Action 1 - Paul to collate the views of board members regarding what they think should be in the proposal for the autism awareness training and how it should be delivered. Views need to be in by the 15th December.

Action 2 - Paul, Valerie, Laura and Ruth to meet in January to formulate a proposal/ business case on Autism Awareness training for assessment and enablement officers for discussion at the next APB meeting on February 9th.

Minutes from Previous meeting

John went through the previous minutes and asked members for updates on their actions.

Matters Arising

- Reasonable Adjustments MECC Plus toolkit - Mary said public health had not signed off the training yet.
- Autistic Experiences-James still intend to collaborate on creating a short video on his experiences of being autistic with Mary.
- Social Convention-James, Valerie and Josh have had to delay their meeting due the November lockdown but will reschedule for the New Year.
- Adult Diagnostic Pathway-Valerie said the Hereford Times had published the ADP press release on the 22 October and Valerie had been in touch with Jenny Dalloway who was going to get the CCG to send out the press release about the new diagnostic service and this was done.
- Valerie did not write a letter to Taurus, she sent an e-Mail instead and received a good response.
- Valerie sent an e-Mail to Rachael Johnson about the diagnostic service and she had received a positive response.
- Children's Diagnostic Pathway-Debbie said the pathway was being re-written to make it parent friendly.
- Reasonable Adjustments Charter- Laura, Mary and Valerie still need to discuss.
- Christine from Healthwatch has talked to the CCG concerning the lack of awareness among GPs for the new service.

Action 3 - James to discuss his experiences of being autistic with Mary.

Action 4 - James to discuss his issues around social conversation with Josh and Valerie in the New Year. These views may be included when we discuss autistic experiences at a future meeting.

Any Other Business

James said the Access to Work Scheme and Hereford Make are planning on holding diversity awareness training. Ten Places are available; date and time yet to be announced. Please contact James for further details. Valerie and Debbie said they would like to attend and Laura said she would volunteer someone from the community.

Action 5 - Laura to find a volunteer from the community.

Healthwatch -The Reasonable Adjustments Report 2019/20 is now on the Herefordshire Healthwatch website.

<https://healthwatchherefordshire.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/Reasonable-Adjustments-short-report-2019-2020.pdf>

Mary also mentioned that Healthwatch also has a new page on its website about What is Healthwatch and a blog on how staff members have been dealing with working from home and the impact of the coronavirus.

<https://healthwatchherefordshire.co.uk/about-us/what-is-healthwatch>

NAS-Debbie mentioned West Mercia police have a new alert card for anyone who is over 13 years old who is autistic.

<https://www.autismwestmidlands.org.uk/home/alert-cards/>

Debbie also mentioned that Autism education Trust is rolling out autism awareness training to Schools over the course of next year.

<https://www.autismeducationtrust.org.uk/training-programme/>

Next Meeting

Valerie suggested we discuss the Left Stranded Document - the document looks at how people with learning disabilities and autism have been affected by isolation caused by the coronavirus.

Action 6 - Valerie said she would try and get the police to attend the next meeting.

The next meeting will take place on February 9th - 11am-12:30pm via Zoom. Further details will be sent out later in due course.

Actions

Paul	Action 1	To collate board members for their thought on what needs to be included in autism awareness training for assessment and enablement officers. Feedback to be in by 15 th of December.
Paul, Laura, Ruth and Valerie	Action 2	Meet in January to devise proposal around a business case for autism awareness training for assessment and enablement officers to be discussed at the February 9 th meeting.
Laura	Action 3	Find someone to attend the Diversity awareness Training at Hereford Make.
James and Mary	Action 4	To meet with to discuss creating short video around his experiences of being autistic.
James and Valerie	Action 5	Meet with Josh to discuss Social Conversation in the New Year.
Valerie	Action 6	To try and get the police to attend our next meeting.
Mary	Action 7	To write to the Job Centre about her concerns and reasonable adjustments they can make.
Laura, Mary and Valerie	Action 8	To meet to discuss the reasonable adjustment charter hopefully in time for our next meeting.